

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
March 6, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Jim Workman, Chairman
Cliff Pratt, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin
Virginia Bridle-Russell
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Ben Moore

Chairman Jim Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Police Chief Jamie Sullivan led the audience in the salute to the flag.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Pratt announced that the Hampton PTA will be hosting Candidates Night on Tuesday, March 7 at 7 PM. Candidates for all Town elected boards and committees will be making their campaign speeches. The event will be televised on Channel 22.

The Hampton Historical Society will be hosting a potluck dinner and program on Friday, March 10 at 6 PM at the First Congregational Church. David Deysher and Elizabeth Colburn will discuss the process of documenting older homes, the history and architecture.

Mr. Workman announced the American Red Cross Hampton Community Blood Drive at Hampton Academy on Friday, March 10 from 2 to 7PM.

On Saturday, March 11 the Board of Selectmen will be hosting the annual roundtable meeting to discuss potential outcomes of the warrant.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. POLICE CHIEF JAMIE SULLIVAN – POLICE DEPARTMENT VISION

Police Chief Jamie Sullivan addressed the Board. Chief Sullivan said that he is very proud and honored to be the person in charge of the Hampton Police Department. He and his staff are working on creating a strategic plan that outlines the short and long term goals for the Department.

His vision is to make the Department stronger by focusing on excellence. Chief Sullivan plans on providing excellent service to the community by ensuring that his staff is well trained and have the tools to do the job.

The mission of the Hampton Police Department is to enhance the quality of life for all persons who live, work and visit our community by:

- Fostering partnerships within our community to promote safe, secure neighborhoods;
- Maintaining order and peace, while affording dignity and respect to every person;
- Safeguarding individual rights; and
- Preventing crime while aggressively working to solve those crimes which occur.

The Hampton Police Department strives to accomplish this mission through the delivery of quality police services; and the pursuit of excellence and dedication in the performance of those services.

Chief Sullivan said that budget constraints are one of the challenges facing the Department. He said that the financial situation limits resources.

Chief Sullivan believes in open lines of communication within the department and community. He is involved in the community and encourages citizens to talk to him with any questions or concerns. He and his Department are here for the community.

To determine what the need is for the community he is conducting a staff task analysis and is comparing the results with the current job descriptions to determine if there are any adjustments required. He is also conducting a policy review in respect to training. The new Hampton Police Station has superb training facilities and that will enable the Department to hire outside agencies to conduct training which will have cost savings.

Chief Sullivan's future goals are to support staff development, community service, as well as the Town's youth and senior citizens. He said that the Police Department could consider outreach programs for these residents. For example, the Department is considering a program for homebound seniors. It would involve checking on elderly citizens in their own homes to ensure their welfare.

Safe home and community watch programs are a great way for citizens to become involved in protecting their property.

The Chief would like to know if the Department is meeting the needs of the Community.

He also believes that staff training is essential to provide better service to Hampton citizens. Internet crimes, fraud issues and illegal drugs are a problem in the Town. It is important for the community that police officers have proper training to deal with investigating and solving these types of crimes.

Some citizens are concerned that speed limits are too high. It is the intent of the Chief to have speed limits assessed to determine if the limits are safe. The Town also has a trailer that tells traffic how fast they are going, as a good gentle warning for speeders.

The Department is planning on taking advantage of grants for various projects.

The Chief believes in regional efforts for the betterment of all neighboring communities. The Seacoast Emergency Response Team enables towns in the area to support each other.

The new roadway configuration in the beach area, will improve parking enforcement as well as clearing the roadways for emergency vehicles.

Chief Sullivan and his staff are committed to excellence in the Hampton Police Department.

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO CHIEF SULLIVAN

Chairman Workman is pleased that Jamie Sullivan has taken on the role of Police Chief.

Mr. Griffin asked if Chief Sullivan believes that parking of trailers and boats along Town streets is a problem to enforce. Chief Sullivan said that they do see some cases but the most common problem is abandoned vehicles. The Chief is looking forward to the parking spaces being painted. This will designate the actual parking space which will allow police to properly enforce parking. Mr. Griffin would like to see parking enforcement become a priority so that it is fair to everyone.

Mr. Griffin asked if there is a significant difference in the crime rate in the beach area in comparison to uptown. Chief Sullivan said that it depends on the time of the year. In the summer there are more cases of vandalism and damage to property along Route 1A. This is usually the case as there are more people in the beach area during the summer. In general there are crime issues all around Town.

Mr. Pratt congratulated Chief Sullivan on his presentation. Mr. Pratt would like to see more patrol officers in the uptown area during the summer months. In addition he would like to see police officers build public relations with local business owners and citizens.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Barrington spoke with Comcast on Tuesday about senior citizen discounts for cable television. He was told that a few communities still have such discounts available under older, pre-existing franchise agreements, but that they no longer offer such discounts. Mr. Barrington expressed his concern to Comcast that their employees are telling people that the discounts are not available because the local Selectmen will not allow it. Mr. Barrington has been assured that the situation has been corrected as all call center employees have been informed. Mr. Barrington requested a letter verifying this information. Mr. Barrington received another call from a citizen on Wednesday reporting the same incorrect message from a Comcast employee that had been previously reported.

Brian Warburton confirmed Mr. Barrington's information on the lifeguards last Monday evening. The Town is grateful that the State is responsible for the hiring, training, and scheduling lifeguards. Many of the lifeguards are students and there is a problem every year with them returning to school in the fall, before the beach season is completely over. Consequently, the State prioritizes the coverage areas. Unfortunately, as a result it sometimes leaves some areas uncovered by lifeguards.

Public Works Director John Hangen spoke with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) about the question of loading zones on Ocean Boulevard. While there are a few details to work out on the issue, DOT was receptive to the idea and interested in working with the Town to make the entire project and area successful. Chief Engineer at Division Six, Doug DePorter has since confirmed that, DOT considers this a local ordinance issue.

Mr. Hangen also confirmed with the water company that they are not completed with their repairs at 280 Lafayette Road. Due to the condition of the ground and the weather, they are scheduled to finish the work of compacting, smoothing, and seeding when the season allows.

The retirement payout for Fire Captain Guy Larivee was \$46,077.25.

Police Captain Rich Sawyer notified Mr. Barrington of a grant from Crimeline for \$951.75. An e-mail to Captain Sawyer from Lieutenant Gidley details the proposed purchases. This is the first such instance for us to fall under the revised statute at RSA 31:95-b III. The threshold for public hearings on accepting such grants is now \$5,000. Under \$5,000, the requirement is simply that agenda include notice of the funds. The Selectmen may then discuss the grant and accept it without further action. The grant will be included in next week's agenda.

The Town Manager received materials from Precinct Chairman John Kane about the proposed improvements on their sign at the intersection of Route 1 and Winnacunnet Road. The proposed improvements are to be done in April.

Mr. Barrington said that there are a few Town committee members who have not yet responded concerning their interest in reappointment.

Attorney Gearreald has requested a non-meeting with the Board at the conclusion of tonight's meeting to bring the Board up to date on a few issues and seek the Board's guidance.

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

It was the consent of the Board to include the Crimeline grant on next week's consent agenda and to include the Precinct Commission proposal to update the Hampton Beach sign located at the intersection of Winnacunnet Road and Lafayette Road on tonight's consent agenda.

Mr. Griffin said that he has had many phone calls about the Comcast senior citizen discounts and is glad that Mr. Barrington has been working on resolving the issue. He is also glad that the DOT has responded to the Town's request and is willing to work together to provide loading zones along Ocean Boulevard which will make the beach infrastructure project a success.

Mr. Pratt said that he has received a number of phone calls about the Comcast senior citizen discounts. Many of the calls have been to complain that the Board of Selectmen has not done their job by not requesting this discount. Mr. Barrington said that the Town has asked Comcast a number of times in the past for a senior discount and have been refused. Mr. Pratt asked if the Town could use some of the Channel 22 revenue received from Comcast as a discount for seniors. Mr. Barrington said that he would look into it.

The franchise agreement with Comcast will expire in five years.

Mr. Workman is pleased that the DOT is willing to work with the Town to create adequate loading zones.

Mr. Pratt asked if Verizon will add competition to the cable industry in Hampton. Mr. Barrington said that the franchise agreement that the Town has with Comcast is nonexclusive. Therefore, competition is coming to the cable industry but it will take a few years. He will be meeting tomorrow with Verizon representatives to discuss various opportunities available. Mr. Barrington will report to the Board on that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Mr. Griffin commented on the letter that the Board of Selectmen received from the Firefighters Union and asked if the letters are written during work hours. Mr. Barrington presumes that they are writing Union letters off the clock. Mr. Griffin said that he resents the letter and feels that the Board is doing their best. In addition he feels that the letter was threatening and demanding. He is frustrated because it appears to him that the Union is complaining constantly. Mr. Griffin is unsure of what their recent campaign is but received many calls today from Channel 9 News (WMUR) for comments. Mr. Griffin certainly hopes that letters from the Union are not being written while they are being paid by the Town. In addition, Mr. Griffin said that the Board of Selectmen budgeted for four additional firefighters in the 2006 budget. He also encouraged residents to vote on March 14.

Mr. Griffin said that he received a call complaining about the religious quote printed in the Town Manager's annual report. Mr. Barrington said that he has always concluded his report with a scripture verse from the bible. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that freedom of speech guaranteed by the United States Constitution gives people the right and suggested that if people are offended they should not read it.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that the two people who signed the Firefighters Union letter are citizens of Hampton and have the right to express their feelings about the local government. She also said that people who run for Town election work hard to do so and requested that campaign signs be left alone and not defaced or removed. She also said that people should make their own decision when it comes to voting for Town officers and subjects.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that as of March of last year there is no longer a Deputy Fire Chief of Operations as listed in the annual report under appointed officials. Mr. Workman pointed out that there are two United States Senators and there is only one listed in the annual report.

2. 48 BEACH PLUM WAY PERMISSION TO BUILD EXPANSION

With regard to the 48 Beach Plum Way situation, Building Inspector Kevin Schultz has confirmed that when an addition is proposed to a non-conforming structure and the addition itself is otherwise conforming and does not expand the non-conforming aspects of the property, it is his practice and that of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to issue a building permit without requiring a variance from the ZBA. He has provided a memo to that effect. Deputy Tax Assessor Angie Silva has provided a memo confirming the information provided by Assessor Bob Estey that some of the properties in the leased land program are not included on the leased land rent warrant due to the timing of their respective leases and the particular provisions of their leases at the time they were issued. The land rent was not included in the lease for the property at 48 Beach Plum Way as that lease predated the imposition of land rent, which is included in newer leases as explained in Angie's memo.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to grant approval for the addition to the house at 48 Beach Plum Way. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pratt noted that there is a letter in the Board of Selectmen's packets from the Town Moderator requesting guidelines of the Ad Hoc Oversight Commission. Mr. Workman suggested that the minutes from the meeting where the Commission was discussed be provided. Mr. Pratt suggested that the Board develop a mission statement. Mr. Workman suggested that the minutes be included in the Board of Selectmen's packets and discuss them at the next meeting.

Mr. Workman said that the Fire Department has proposed charging the Precinct Commission for special details used during the fireworks displays this coming year. Mr. Barrington said that there are approximately 14 different occasions for Firework displays and the cost would be \$5,046. Mrs. Bridle-Russell stated that Precinct Commissioners pay taxes and they are residents. She said that visitors come from all over to enjoy the fireworks and asked if other groups have been charged in the past for Fire Department Special Details. Mr. Barrington said that traditionally the Fire Department does not charge but is considering it because of financial constraints. Mr. Barrington said that Chief Lipe is concerned about the Fire Department budget and is looking for ways to resolve the problem. Mr. Workman said that he believes that they can find enough money in the budget to cover the cost.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that next Tuesday the Board will have a better idea of the Town's financial position.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to not charge for fire works. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

V. MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to accept the minutes as presented. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI - CONSENT AGENDA

1. Rockingham County Nursing Home Request
 2. 2006 Land Rent Warrant
- Addition to the Consent Agenda: Hampton Beach visitors sign at the intersection of Winnacunnet Road and Lafayette Road as proposed by the Hampton Precinct Commission.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to accept the consent agenda. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII - PUBLIC COMMENT

Skip Sullivan addressed the Board of Selectmen. He came to the meeting to address some issues before the Town election on March 14. Mr. Sullivan encouraged voters to go to the polls and vote for their candidate of choice and on the warrant articles. Mr. Sullivan said that he disagreed with the person at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting who talked about the parliamentary procedure at the Deliberative Session and commented on the proposed Fire Station design. Mr. Sullivan stated that warrant articles do not address the exact item that is needed by various departments. He said that Articles are designed to meet the needs of the Town of Hampton and leave the detail work to the Board of Selectmen and Department Heads. Mr. Sullivan also hopes to see the rescue boat maintained as it has been involved in many rescues along Hampton Beach.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman